**How to write a Journal Entry?**

Simple form:

Title: Ch. X-X

“Quote from book” Ch. X-X

Explain context, what was happening in the book at that time

Why you chose this quote

Relate it to a personal experience, why you agree or disagree with this quote, personal thoughts

Quote +2 complete full paragraphs

Journal Entry: (two parts)

The first part is a direct quotation of the part you marked in the text, copied word for word, and enclosed in quotation marks. Be sure to write the chapter number and the page number of the quotation in parentheses after the quotation. (MLA format requires that you use the last name, a space, and then the number--no "pg.") e.g. “” ch. 3- 23.

In this paragraph include the explanation of what is going on in the story at the time of the passage (the context). Some students like to write (1) what is happening in the story, (2) what the passage says, and (3) why the passage is important or interesting.

The second part of the journal entry is a paragraph of 5 or more sentences that explains why you found the passage to be important or interesting. Sometimes students make predictions about what will happen in the text, they ask questions about the reading, they wonder about the reading, or they explain it or relate to it in some way. Whatever you do, DO NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE the contents of the passage. Go beyond it somehow, analyze it, offer thoughts about why it seems important to you. In essence, by writing about the importance of the passage, you will give it meaning--and that is what reading is all about!

Things you should keep in mind when choosing a quotation:

* **Questions** that you ask yourself about the characters and events as you read. (Answer these yourself when you can.)
* **Memories** from your own experiences, provoked by the reading.
* **Guesses** about how you think a plot might develop, and why.
* **Reflections** on striking moments and ideas in the book.
* **Comparisons** between how you beh-ave and how the characters in the novel are behaving.
* **Thoughts and feelings** about characters and events.
* **Comments** on how the story is being told. For example, write any words and phrases that make an impression on you, or motifs/themes which you notice the author using.
* **Connections** to other texts, ideas, and courses.

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<http://www.bergen.cc.nj.us/pages/2209.asp>